

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. **(Currently Amended)** A lever ring for seaming to a body and for receiving a closure layer affixed with an edge portion thereof by sealing and for bridging an inner space of the lever ring, to close the body in a seam-connected position, wherein
 - (i) the lever ring ~~has~~ having a surrounding continuous flat web which radially outwardly merges into an edge rim of the lever ring, and a continuous surrounding groove extending between the edge rim and the flat web;
 - (ii) the flat web extends upwardly inclined from a horizontal plane at an angle differing from zero and is provided with an inner curling on its radially inner end so that a closure layer sealed to the flat web and subjected to a pressure force acting vertically to a plane of extension of the closure layer introduces a substantial force component into a sealing zone, so that the force component extends in an extension direction of the sealing zone~~[[.]]; and~~
 - (iii) the inner curling is configured to deflect the closure layer so that an edge strip is formed that extends at an angle differing from zero with respect to a plane of the closure layer in the inner space of the lever ring.
3. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle differing from zero is between substantially 10° and substantially 90°.

4. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle is between substantially 40° and 60°.

5. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle is between substantially 25° and 35°.

6. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle is between substantially 80° and 90°.

7. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle differing from zero extends substantially vertically to the extension of the plane of the closure layer.

8. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein said sealing of the closure layer is a sealing of an edge portion of the closure layer in a sealing zone to the flat web which sealing zone extends circumferentially.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the sealing zone as a strip extending circumferentially has a substantial width of extension on the flat web, the width being more than half of a width of the flat web.

13. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the inner curling axially projects above an upper side of the lid rim with an alignment of the flat web that projects steeply upwards.

14. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the groove is wedge-shaped with a rounded bottom and is formed between a chuck wall extending towards the surrounding lid rim and the surrounding inclined flat web.

15. through 26. (Cancelled)

27. (**Currently Amended**) A combination of a lid ring for seaming to a body and a closure layer sealed by a surrounding edge portion to the lever ring and bridging an inner space of the lever ring, to close the body in a seam-connected position, wherein

- (i) the lever ring has a continuous surrounding flat web which radially outwardly merges into an edge rim of the lever ring, a continuous surrounding groove extending between the edge rim and the flat web;
- (ii) onto the surrounding flat web the surrounding edge portion of the closure layer is affixed by sealing along a sealing strip extending circumferentially and having a substantial width on the flat web, and this width being more than half

- of a width of the flat web, the flat web extending at an angle differing from zero with respect to a plane of the closure layer affixed by said sealing; and
- (iii) the closure layer being a metal foil[.] and extending over the inner curling so that the closure layer is deflected forming an edge strip that extends at an angle differing from zero with respect to the plane of the closure layer in the inner space of the lever ring.

28. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 27, wherein the flat web comprises radially inwards an inner curling.

29. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 27, wherein the angle differing from zero is between substantially 10° and substantially 90°.

30. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 27, wherein the angle is between substantially 40° and 60°.

31. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 27, wherein the angle is between substantially 25° and 35°.

32. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 27, wherein the angle is between substantially 80° and 90°.

33. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 27, wherein the angle differing from zero extends substantially vertically to the extension of the plane of the closure layer.

34. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 27, wherein said receiving of the closure layer is a sealing of an edge of the closure layer to a circumferential sealing strip on the flat web.

35. **(Cancelled)**

36. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 27, wherein an inner curling at the surrounding flat web axially projects above an upper level of the lid rim with an alignment of the flat web projecting steeply upwards.

37. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 27, wherein the groove is of wedge-shape having a rounded bottom and is formed between a chuck wall extending towards the edge rim and the surrounding flat web extending at an angle differing from zero.